Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01488 112348Z ACTION IO-13

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PARM, UN

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION SECOND PREPCOM: NEGOTIATIONS ON AGENDA.

REF: USUN 1468

1. ON BEHALF OF "A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES," AUSTRALIAN AND NORWEGIAN REPS PRESENTED AN ALTERNATIVE DRAFT AGENDA TO NON-ALIGNED CONTACT GROUP (EGYPT, INDIA, MEXICO, SRI LANKA, YUGOSLAVIA) ON MAY 11. "WESTERN" DRAFT, A MODIFIED VERSION OF NON-ALIGNED PROPOSAL (REFTEL) DEVELOPED WITHIN THE BARTON GROUP, READS AS FOLLOWS:

1. GENERAL DEBATE: REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01488 112348Z

THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT AND OF THE CLOSE INTER-RELATIONSHIP AMONG DISARMAMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT.

2. ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT SETTING OUT, INTER ALIA, GENERALLY APPLICABLE

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

3. ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT

4. REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN DISARMAMENT AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT.

- 2. ACCORDING TO OXLEY (AUSTRALIA), NON-ALIGNED CONTACT GROUP RAISED OBJECTIONS TO EACH OF THE REVISIONS PROPOSED IN THE WESTERN DRAFT. IN PARTICULAR, THEY OPPOSED DELETION OF REFERENCE TO THE "LACK OF ADEQUATE PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT IN FIRST AGENDA ITEM AND DELETION OF REFERENCE TO WDC IN FOURTH. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED REFORMULATION OF ITEM TWO, CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF (PRINCIPLES OF) DISARMAMENT, NON-ALIGNED REPS OFFERED NO SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTION BUT SAID THEY PREFERRED KEEPING TITLE SHORT AND GENERAL. THEY UNDERTOOK, IN ANY EVENT, TO DISCUSS "WESTERN" DRAFT WITH REST OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND REPORT REACTIONS.
- 3. AT THE SAME TIME, EAST EUROPEANS HAVE GIVEN NON-ALIGNED CONTACT GROUP THEIR OWN PROPOSED DRAFT, HIGHLIGHTING "PREPARATION FOR" A WDC AS ITEM TWO. FULL PROPOSAL READS:
- "1. GENERAL DEBATE ON DISARMAMENT.
- 2. PREPARATION FOR CONVENING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.
- 3. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT.
- 4. ADOPTION OF FINAL DOCUMENT (OR DOCUMENTS)."

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01488 112348Z

4. AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, YUGOSLAVS APPEAR TO BE MAINTAINING THE STRONGEST POSITION AGAINST COMPROMISE WITH THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES ON THE WDC ISSUE, INSISTING THAT FORMULATION IN NON-ALIGNED DRAFT (REVIEW OF ROLE OF UN AND DISARMAMENT MECHANISMS, "INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A WDC") IS AN "ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM." HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS FIRMNESS IS GENERAL AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, AND WE EXPECT VARIOUS "COMPROMISES" TO BE SUGGESTED. NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE INFORMALLY WITH OBJECTIVE OF REACHING AGREEMENT BY FRIDAY. FOR THE TIME BEING, WESTERN GROUP HAS AGREED TO HOLD FIRM ON ITS DRAFT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO DELETION OF WDC. THOUGH ALL DELEGATIONS HAVE INDICATED THEY COULD GO ALONG WITH CURRENT NON-ALIGNED FORMULATION IN THE END. EAST EUROPEANS SO FAR HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT NON-ALIGNED FORMULATION ON WDC WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. THEY APPEAR DETERMINED AT A MINIMUM TO INSIST THAT WDC BE A SEPARATE ITEM ON THE AGENDA REGARDLESS OF HOW IT IS PHRASED.

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